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CPHA•ACSP *health digest*
CANADA'S PUBLIC HEALTH LEADER
LE LEADER CANADIEN EN SANTE PUBLIQUE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cory Neudorf, CPHA Chair

Moving forward from the Call to Action

Almost a year has passed since CPHA announced at the 2008 Annual Conference its Call to Action to address health inequalities in Canada. Through this public declaration, CPHA committed itself to play a significant role in defining a made-in-Canada approach. We also committed ourselves to be a convener and a catalyst in collaboration with other organizations, both within and outside of the health sector, that have been active on this topic for some time.

CPHA has been very active over the past few months in meeting its commitments. The Association committed itself to analyze the implications for Canada of various reports dealing with health inequalities that were scheduled to be released after the 2008 Annual Conference. We achieved this, with CPHA responses to the 1st Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, to the draft reports of the Senate Sub-committee on Population Health, and to the report of the WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health. CPHA also called for increased investment in public health through its submissions to the Parliament's Standing Committee on Finance and the brief prepared by the Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century sent to all candidates running in the 2008 federal election.

CPHA also committed itself to enlarging its engagement with other organizations and groups involved in addressing health inequalities. CPHA participated in several roundtables and met with various government departments, national poverty groups, and social services organizations all concerned with this topic. We are exploring ways of collaborating and putting into place innovative and effective mechanisms, with CPHA ensuring that the voice of public health and the concerns and views of public health practitioners are front and centre in the discussions.

CPHA committed itself to disseminate information about exciting, innovative and effective responses to health inequalities. As a first step, CPHA undertook a review of its past resolutions, motions, positions and policy statements. The Association has a long and visible legacy, having advocated strongly for a determinants of health approach to health inequalities dating back to the 1970s. This review will provide a framework for CPHA's continued leadership on this issue.

"Strengthening Connections", the theme of the 2009 Annual Conference, is a perfect segue from last year's conference to the definition of a made-in-Canada strategy for addressing health inequalities. CPHA's response to last year's Call to Action will be reviewed and a Policy Forum convened during the conference. This event will provide an opportunity for practitioners, partners, and stakeholders to share progress on how health inequalities are being addressed through policy, programs and best practices. Through the Policy Forum, CPHA members will help formulate strategies and initiatives to create more equitable access for all people to the conditions that affect health. As CPHA moves towards its centennial year, your Association continues to be engaged in and advocate for greater health equality in Canada, and globally. ♣

Canadian Public Health Association 2009 Annual Conference

Public Health in Canada:
Strengthening Connections

Winnipeg Convention Centre
Winnipeg, Manitoba • June 7-10, 2009

For early registration savings, register online by April 3, 2009!
conference.cpha.ca

2009 PLENARY SPEAKERS

- **John Ralston Saul,** award-winning essayist and novelist
- **Judith Maxwell,** former head of the Economic Council of Canada and Canadian Policy Research Networks
- **Nancy Edwards,** Scientific Director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institute of Population and Public Health
- **Joel Kettner,** Manitoba's first Chief Provincial Public Health Officer
- **David Butler-Jones,** Canada's first Chief Public Health Officer

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Canadian Public Health Association

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Fax: 613-725-9826
E-mail: info@cpha.ca

Executive Managing Editor:
Debra Lynkowski

Coordination & Production:
Ian Culbert

Assistant Editor:
Karen Craven

Circulation:
Doris Amo

Translation:
Marie Cousineau

Mission Statement

The Canadian Public Health Association is a national, independent, not-for-profit, voluntary association representing public health in Canada with links to the international public health community. CPHA's members believe in universal and equitable access to the basic conditions which are necessary to achieve health for all Canadians.

CPHA's mission is to constitute a special national resource in Canada that advocates for the improvement and maintenance of personal and community health according to the public health principles of disease prevention, health promotion and protection and healthy public policy.

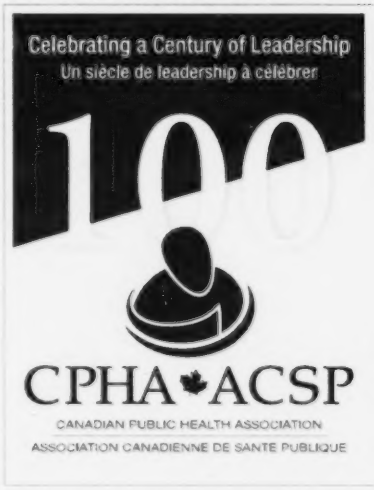
CEO'S COLUMN

Let the celebrations begin!

Debra Lynkowski
Chief Executive Officer

Almost a century ago – during a time when smallpox and typhoid fever were rampant – a group of doctors founded the Canadian Public Health Association in an effort to strengthen communicable disease control and prevention. Constituted through an Act of Parliament on September 22, 1910, the Association went on to urge every provincial and municipal board of health to enforce existing laws and regulations to assure the successful vaccination of every child against smallpox.

CPHA has developed remarkably over the past 99 years, reflecting and shaping the broader evolution of public health in Canada. There have been many public health achievements, some which are better known than others, from vaccination to healthier mothers and babies to safer workplaces. On the occasion of CPHA's centenary in 2010, we will be working with our many partners to increase awareness of public health, its history, accomplishments, lost opportunities and future obligations.



The Board of Directors has formed a Steering Committee to plan the special activities to mark the 100th anniversary. The Committee is being chaired by Gerry Dafoe, who was the Association's Chief Executive Officer for 30 years. Volunteer working groups have been established to provide advice on communications, historical products, partnerships, and fundraising.

Our centenary website will provide snapshots of the public health story. There will be a visual gallery, public health memories, stories of individuals who made a difference. Over the next few months, we will be interviewing public health leaders and those working on the front lines to capture this history.

We need your help in collecting archival materials such as posters, brochures, photos, news clippings, papers, keynote addresses, and artefacts. We plan to showcase these in a public exhibit at CPHA's Centenary conference in Toronto from June 13 to 16, 2010. Every year since 1910, with the exception of 1914, 1924 and 1945 when circumstances made it impossible, the Association has held a national public health conference, bringing together leaders in the public health movement in Canada. So mark those dates on your calendar, for it promises to be a significant event.

Research is now underway for a book on the history of public health in Canada. It will be written in a chronological structure with each chapter building around distinctive themes related to the particular period. We are seeking funds to develop a complementary documentary of public health that can be used as part of an extensive public awareness campaign.

2010 is an unparalleled opportunity to bring attention to public health in Canada, both past and future. We encourage you to get involved by e-mailing Sylvia Fanjoy, Director, CPHA Centenary at centenary@cpha.ca with your suggestions and offers of help.

Debra Lynkowski
Chief Executive Officer

National Dialogue on Nuclear Fuel Management

Last October, CPHA was invited to attend the Ottawa component of the multi-party dialogue (one of several held across the country) to discuss ideas about how to move forward on the plan for the design of the site selection process for the long-term safe disposal of spent nuclear fuel. We accepted the invitation, given the health and safety issues related to nuclear fuel cycle activities (uranium mining and refinement, nuclear power generation, radioactive wastes and decommissioning) and the positions the Association has taken over the years on these same issues.[1] CPHA's position is clear: the Association is concerned about the health and safety aspects of nuclear power and has called for the assessment of the risks to human health resulting from occupational and environmental exposure to ionizing radiation and hazardous wastes.

Canada started generating electrical power through nuclear reactors in 1968. In 2007, 18 nuclear reactors in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick generated 12,600 MWe of power, approximately 16% of Canada's (almost 50% for the province of Ontario) total electricity generation. New nuclear power generation capacity is proposed in three provinces (New Brunswick, Alberta and Saskatchewan).

Nearly 2 million used nuclear fuel bundles exist in Canada, and approximately 85,000 additional bundles are produced annually. At present, spent fuel bundles are first stored for several years in water-filled pools to cool them down, and then placed in dry storage containers, silos and vaults. Canada's used nuclear fuel currently is stored on an interim basis at licensed facilities at nuclear reactor and research sites in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Manitoba. The total volume of spent nuclear fuel, if it could be stacked end to end, would be equivalent to the surface area of 5 hockey rinks to a height of about 4 feet.[2]

As required by the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) was created in 2002 by Canada's nuclear electricity generators. One of its tasks is to develop an approach for the safe long-term management and care of the used fuel produced by Canada's nuclear electricity-generating and research reactors. The NWMO initially considered three technical methods for long-term used fuel management: deep geological disposal in the Canadian Shield; centralized storage above or below ground; and, storage at nuclear reactor sites. Following an extensive consultation with specialists from several disciplines and the public, the NWMO recommended an *Adaptive Phased Management (APM)* approach. It has three phases: preparing for central used fuel management; central storage and technology demonstration; and long-term centralized containment, isolation and continuous monitoring of spent nuclear fuel in a deep geological repository in a suitable rock formation. This approach was approved by the Government of Canada in June 2007.

The report from the Ottawa meeting was released in late January. The consultation, which included representatives from other NGOs and Aboriginal associations, policy research groups, academia, and energy/nuclear-related associations, was frank and open and generated several recommendations:

- Transparency and consultation are the most important principles to guide the process;
- Information provided to potential site communities must be evidence-based, communicated in plain language (and through non-conventional means for Aboriginal communities) and impartial;
- A high level of standards to guide the site selection should be adopted;
- The willingness of a community to host the site must be based on a strong consensus;
- Communities that indicate a willingness to be considered as the selected site have the right to opt out of the process;
- Safety, security and geotechnical suitability are critical.

CPHA, as well as representatives from the Sierra Club and other organizations, stressed the need for high-quality risk assessment throughout the process, including continuous monitoring of the facility's occupational and environmental health aspects.

The NWMO will release the draft proposal for the site selection process later this year (http://www.nwmo.ca/). CPHA will be invited to comment on it. CPHA members are welcome to send their comments directly to the NWMO and can also share their thoughts on this issue with CPHA by contacting policy@cpha.ca

James Chauvin
CPHA Director of Policy

References

1. 1978 Resolution #2: Nuclear Fuel and Waste; 1982 Resolution #4: Nuclear Power; 1982 Resolution #5: Hazardous Wastes; 2000 Resolution #1: Amending the Agreement between the International Atomic Energy Agency and the World Health Organization (Res WHA12-40, 28.5.59).
2. Nuclear Waste Management Organization. Moving forward together: The future management of Canada's used nuclear fuel. Undated.

National Immunization Awareness Week

April 25 to May 2, 2009 / immunize.ca

National Immunization Awareness Week (NIAW) is an opportunity every year to focus on immunization and its importance for both individual health and public health in Canada.

This year, National Immunization Awareness Week takes place from April 25 to May 2, 2009, and coincides with Vaccination Week in the Americas, organized by PAHO.

Immunization protects individuals and communities by preventing the spread of disease. As more people are immunized, the disease risk for everyone is reduced. Immunization has saved more lives in Canada in the last 50 years than any other health intervention. Immunization is the single most cost-effective health investment, making it a cornerstone in the effort to promote health.

Visit immunize.ca for immunization awareness campaign ideas, a sample NIAW2009 Proclamation for use in your community, and a wealth of immunization resources.

New website launched to help plug gaps in Canada's disaster response capacity

In response to dire predictions of more natural disasters and research showing gaps in Canada's disaster response capacity, a group of concerned voluntary sector and emergency management organizations have launched a website to help boost the levels of disaster preparedness across Canada.

The Ready For Crisis website offers practical tools to help communities and voluntary sector organizations disaster-proof their services and their resources. The site features an online tutorial for service continuity planning, a readiness survey and a community resiliency handbook containing activities to help organizations to understand risk factors in their communities and to take inventory of vital resources that could be used in a disaster.

The website and the tools were developed after results of Canadian Red Cross research uncovered three major weaknesses in Canada's disaster safety net: the security of high-risk populations, the efficient mobilization of resources and sufficient recruitment of volunteers.

"We found millions of vulnerable Canadians depend on voluntary sector services for their daily survival, but many of those organizations have no disaster plans in place to protect their service delivery in times of crisis," says Don Shropshire, National Director of Disaster Management at the Canadian Red Cross. "Our research indicated the voluntary sector is a large part of the solution but it needs help."

The Ready for Crisis website is one part of the Voluntary Sector Project, a large, cross-Canada initiative led by the Canadian Red Cross, Salvation Army and St. John Ambulance in collaboration with 10 other organizations including

Volunteer Canada, the Centre for Voluntary Sector Research and Development at Carleton University and the Canadian Public Health Association. The initiative is made possible through a financial contribution from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

For more information:
go to the website readyforcrisis.ca
or contact Tsehayou Seyoum
tsehayou.seyoum@redcross.ca
613-740-1965 ♣

Network on Healthy Eating Update

Mary-Jo Makarchuk, CPHA's representative on the Network on Healthy Eating, brings the following resources to the attention of the CPHA community:

1) Nutrition labelling resources including a ready-to-use presentation with accompanying speaker's notes and an interactive nutrition label and quiz can be found on Health Canada's Office of Nutrition Policy and Promotion website: www.healthcanada.gc.ca/nutritionlabelling. These resources assist consumers in using and understanding the nutritional information on food labels so they can make informed healthy eating choices.
2) Health Canada has released a revised National Nutritious Food Basket and it can be found at: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/surveill/basket-panier/index-eng.php ♣

16th Canadian Conference on International Health

Call for Abstracts
Deadline Friday, May 11, 2009

The 16th Canadian Conference on International Health is being held October 25-28, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza Ottawa in Ottawa, ON, Canada.

The theme this year is "Health Equity: Our Global Responsibility". The deadline for the Call for Abstracts is Friday, May 11, 2009 and we encourage all those who would like to present a paper or poster to submit their abstract as soon as possible. Late submissions will not be accepted. Abstracts can be submitted in English or French.

Please check our website at www.csih.org for the complete Call for Abstracts form and regular conference updates.

The conference provides exciting opportunities for learning, networking and sharing projects and proposals. We hope you can join us. ♣

STUDENT *Corner*

Advancing Immunization Research in Canada: Celebrating Students

Catherine Mah is a paediatrician and currently a PhD student in the Department of Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation at the University of Toronto. Her thesis research focuses on public health policymaking and governance in the area of immunizations.

The 8th Canadian Immunization Conference (CIC), held in Toronto in December 2008, brought together diverse stakeholders to showcase the latest achievements in immunization in Canada. In addition to high-quality student presentations in the oral and poster competitions, student research was the focus of the CIC's first-ever Vaccinology Student Research Program. Four students were awarded a bursary to attend the conference and offered the opportunity to share their work in sessions with established investigators.

Winning projects were diverse, spanning laboratory science, practice, and policy. Andrea Kitta of Memorial University tackled anti-vaccination discourse; Michael Campitelli, a Master's student at the University of Toronto, looked at influenza vaccine effectiveness. Michael was impressed by the CIC's interdisciplinarity, remarking, "It gave [me] a great perspective about how all the different fields… are working in unison to solve public health problems related to vaccination."

The student winners were also grateful for the chance to immerse themselves in knowledge exchange and networking. "One-on-one conversations were… easier and more comfortable throughout the remainder of the conference," affirmed Katie Young, whose project examining novel vaccine delivery technology has led to further studies as a PhD student at McGill University. Brian Reikie, who presented on neonatal vaccination, has also transitioned to a doctoral program. "We were encouraged… to take part in the types of conversations that help generate change," reflected Brian, who is currently conducting research at BC Children's Hospital. "I am now pursuing a translational approach to my work that I never before would have believed to be possible."

Margaret Russell, Canadian Association for Immunization Research and Evaluation (CAIRE) and CIC Program Committee Co-Chair, declared enthusiastically, "[The student program] was visible hard evidence of the value placed upon growing our next generation of vaccinology researchers by the sponsoring organizations and by individual researchers… It was also fun!" Dr. Russell praised the calibre of submissions and expressed her gratitude to participating mentors. Gordean Bjornson, CAIRE Administrative Director, commented, "If [these students] are any indication… then we know [Canadians] will continue to be world leaders in vaccine research." Dr. Ethan Rubinstein, program coordinator, expressed his hope that "this endeavour will continue and increase."

Are you a student conducting research on immunizations? We look forward to seeing your work at the 9th CIC in Quebec City in 2010!

Catherine L. Mah, MD, FRCPC

Safe Kids Week 2009

Consumer Product Safety

Injuries from the use of consumer products are common, frequently serious and sometimes fatal. Given the complexity and interconnectedness of today's global marketplace, there appears to be a disconnection between product safety realities and consumer expectations.

Survey results have shown that the vast majority of Canadians believe that if a product is available for sale on the market, it is safe or has been tested for safety. Regrettably, this is not necessarily the case in Canada, particularly for children's products. In fact, under the current Hazardous Product Act there are a variety of consumer products, including many children's products, which do not have any standards or regulations. The result is an increasing risk of product-related injuries to children and youth due to age, cognitive abilities and developmental stage.

Now more than ever, there is a need to renew and modernize Canadian federal product safety legislation to be consistent with consumer expectations and to address the increasing risk of injury to children.

To address this growing need, Safe Kids Canada's national public awareness campaign, Safe Kids Week, held from May 25 to May 31, 2009, will focus on home product safety. Find out how you can show your support for the renewal of consumer product safety legislation in Canada by visiting www.safekidscanada.ca and clicking on the 'Safe Kids Week' link or call 1-888-SAFE-TIP.

Coming *events*

Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors 75th Annual Education Conference
75 Years and New Frontiers
3-6 May 2009 Kananaskis, AB
ciphi.conference09@calgaryhealthregion.ca
http://members.shaw.ca/ciphi.conference2009/

CSEB-APHEO 2009 Joint Conference
Expanding Horizons in Epidemiology: From Research into Practice
25-28 May 2009 Ottawa, ON
http://www.cseb-apheo-09.ca/

2009 CPHA Annual Conference
Public Health in Canada: Strengthening Connections
7-10 June 2009 Winnipeg, MB
Contact: CPHA Conference Services
Tel: 613-725-3769, ext. 126
Fax: 613-725-9826
E-mail: conference@cpha.ca
www.cpha.ca

5th International Conference of the International Society for Equity in Health
Social and Societal Influences on Equity in Health
9-11 June 2009 Crete, Greece
http://www.iseqh-conference2009.com

9th WONCA Rural Health World Conference
Health Inequalities: technology suitable for rural settings, island medicine and health services for immigrants
Hosted by the Clinic of Social and Family Medicine, Medical Faculty, University of Crete, Greece in conjunction with the practice-based research rural network of Crete and EURIPA
12-14 June 2009 Heraklion, Crete, Greece
Contact: Panagiotis Liontos
AC&C, Professional Congress Organiser
E-mail: pliontos@candc-group.com
Conference email: wonca2009@acnc.gr
www.ruralwonca2009.org

A Climate for Change – Communication, Collaboration and Co-operation
19th World Conference on Disaster Management
Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness
21-24 June 2009 Toronto, ON
Contact: Adrian Gordon, CCEP
E-mail: agordon@ccep.ca
www.wcdm.org

14th International Congress on Circumpolar Health
Health Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories
11-16 July 2009 Yellowknife, NT
Contact: Pat Thagard, Congress Coordinator
Arctic Health Research Network
Tel: 867-873-9337 Fax: 867-873-9338
E-mail: icch14@theedge.ca

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
16th Annual Canadian Conference on International Health
Health Equity: Our Global Responsibility
25-28 October 2009 Ottawa, ON
http://www.csih.org/en/ccih/overview.asp
Deadline for Abstracts: Friday 11 May 2009

2008 Doctor Jean C. Nelson Memorial Award Recipient

Christina Gierus of Calgary has been selected as the recipient of the Dr. Jean C. Nelson Memorial Award for 2008. She will receive a bursary of two thousand dollars.

The Doctor Jean C. Nelson Memorial Award is made annually to a graduate student who best meets the criteria based on the late former Alberta Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr. Jean Nelson's commitment to community health and services for children.

Christina is in her second and final year of the University of Calgary Master of Nursing Program focusing on Population Health Promotion. She received her BScN with distinction and was on the Dean's Honour List at McMaster University. In addition to being a Public Health Nurse in Peel (2002-2003) and Calgary (2003 to present), Christina is a Lactation Consultant and has been a member of the APHA since September 2007.

Christina recently completed practica with the Centre for Health Promotion, Division of Childhood and Adolescence with the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Health Systems Workforce Research Unit in Calgary Health Region. She is looking forward to a third practicum with 3 Cheers for the Early Years, Young Family Wellness Program (Calgary Health Region). Christina has future aspirations of becoming an Advanced Practice Nurse and moving forward the primary health care agenda in Alberta.

Information regarding application for the Dr. Jean C. Nelson Memorial Award is available on the Alberta Public Health Association (APHA) website, www.apha.ab.ca. Inquiries may be forwarded to the Board of Directors of the Doctor Jean C. Nelson Memorial Foundation. Donations to the fund are welcome and are tax deductible.

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Almost half of all Canadians have low literacy skills.

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Malawi Public Health Association works to improve sanitation in local communities

The most active regional branch of the Malawi Public Health Association (MPHA) is located in the northern city of Mzuzu. In 2008, this regional branch of the MPHA started implementing a small water and sanitation demonstration project in the underserved ward of Masasa, with support from CPHA's SOPHA program.

Masasa is one of seventeen wards of the city of Mzuzu and is a rapidly growing and unplanned suburban neighbourhood located in the hills that surround the city. With a total population of approximately 1,500 inhabitants who have migrated to Mzuzu from surrounding rural areas, Masasa is one of Mzuzu's poorest neighbourhoods, characterized by limited access to safe water and poor sanitation facilities. There are regular reports of cholera outbreaks in the neighbourhood, particularly during the rainy season.

Masasa local health committee members perform drama on the importance of drinking clean water.

In July and August of last year, members of the MPHA Mzuzu Branch worked with the population of Masasa to help establish three local health committees composed of recognized leaders in the communities. Three committees of ten members each were formed and trained in basic water and sanitation issues which affect the Masasa population. Topics included treatment of drinking water; hygiene and use of latrines; control of breeding grounds for mosquitoes; promotion of mosquito nets; etc.

The ward of Masasa is located in the hills that surround Mzuzu.

Post-training, the thirty committee members have been undertaking a door-to-door campaign to sensitize and educate the population on these issues. Much of this work takes the form of short skits and dramas performed in local languages by the committee members.

In March 2009, at the height of the rainy season, the local health committee members were very proud to announce that for the first time in several years, the ward of Masasa has not recorded any indigenous cases of cholera. They attribute this achievement to the healthier practices and behaviours adopted by the population regarding the treatment of drinking water.

The SOPHA Program will continue to provide support to MPHA who will start training two more local committees in April 2009 and help improve access to potable water by installing new taps as well as new demonstration latrines at the local schools.

Canadian International Development Agency | Agence canadienne de développement international

Canada

"Partners Around the World" is undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Signs of hope in the fight to control tobacco in the Balkans

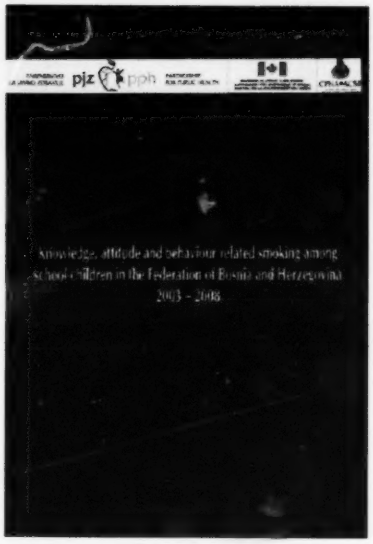
A few weeks ago a senior Serbian official, commenting on a proposed decrease in the excise tax for cigarettes, indicated that it was important to keep cigarette prices low as they are one of the few stress-reducing luxuries the poor will still be able to afford in these times of economic hardship.

Needless to say, tobacco control in the Balkan region is an uphill battle – the situation in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina being no exception. Thirty-seven percent of the population are daily smokers, over 50% of health professionals smoke and a strong domestic manufacturing sector has had stellar success in thwarting under-resourced tobacco control efforts. Moreover, public health literacy about the dangers of tobacco use is woefully inadequate as health care professionals often lack basic knowledge and information on the effects of tobacco use.

Partnership for Public Health, one of the CIDA-funded CPHA-supported public health associations in the Balkan region, is targeting its efforts towards this challenging issue, and in only two short years, showing that change is not just a pipe dream.

On March 24, 2009, the Ministry of Health of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina will announce the results of the Partnership for Public Health's Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) 2008. The Survey clearly shows that the situation is getting worse. From 2003 to 2008, the smoking prevalence in students under the age of 10 increased from 11.9-14.3%. In 2008, almost every single primary school student in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina was exposed to some kind of pro-tobacco advertising every single day of that year. At least once a week, they were exposed to second-hand smoke in their homes and in public places.

Yet, efforts by Partnership for Public Health and other dedicated tobacco control advocates in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina are starting to pay off. The Ministry of Health is strongly considering supporting a Partnership for Public Health school-based prevention program to address some of the recommendations of the GYTS. The first hospital in Bosnia and Herzegovina is poised to join the European Network of Smoke-Free Hospitals. Legislative recommendations, including a vice-tax to fund tobacco prevention and cessation activities and signing the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, are seriously being considered by the government. Public support seems high.



Partnership for Public Health will look to capitalize on this change in the air and push for the implementation of the GYTS recommendations, including enforcement of existing public smoking bans; coordinated federal anti-smoking campaigns; and, a ban on sale of tobacco for minors under 18 years of age.

STOP Program Wins Immunization Award

CPHA, WHO, UNICEF, CDC and Rotary International were recently awarded the 16th WHO/AFRO Task Force on Immunization Award for their contribution to the STOP Program, and in recognition of the crucial technical support they provided to more than thirty member States in the African Region. Since its inception ten years ago, STOP has provided technical assistance to 59 countries, and has deployed over 1,015 technical experts who worked on global efforts in polio eradication, measles mortality reduction, routine immunization, communication, and data management. Congratulations to all STOP partners!

Above: Representatives from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) accepting the Award on behalf of all partners.

Right: The WHO/AFRO Award presented to STOP partners during the 16th Task Force on Immunization meeting held in Mauritius, December 3-6, 2008.